

"The Hermitage" - Home of Andrew Jackson,
Davidson County, Tennessee.

HABS 19-52

HABS
TENN

19 NASH.V,

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
W. Jeter Eason - District Officer
Room 404, Goodwyn Institute Bldg.
Memphis, Tennessee.

HABS
TENN.
19-NASHV
4-

THE HERMITAGE
(Home of Andrew Jackson)
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

Owner: State of Tennessee.

Date of Erection: 1818 (begun).

Architect: No record.

Builder: Joseph Rief (?).

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Brick

Other Existing Records: See Gardens of Colony and State, vol. 2, 363-369, for picture of house, description and plan of garden and drawing of fence; History of the Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, by the Garden Club of Nashville (1936), 169-177.

Additional Data: See following pages.

DATA NOT CONTROLLED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TENN
19-NASH.V
1-

THE HERMITAGE
(Home of Andrew Jackson)
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

HISTORY:

The Hermitage and five hundred acres of adjoining land were bought by the State in 1856. It is believed that the brick building was begun in 1818. There is no record of the architect.

In 1831 the following additions were made: the portico on the north or rear elevation; the east and the west wings; a new roof and a new kitchen. There seems to have been no architect for these additions, but reference is made to Joseph Rief, who made up estimates, and to Austin, a brick mason. A Col. Earle is mentioned as an important factor in laying out the formal gardens. In 1834 General Jackson in a letter to Andrew Jackson Jr. approved of additions and improvements named by Major Lewis and Col. Love to cost \$3,000 or a little more.

In 1834 a fire did considerable damage and replacements were made at a cost of \$5,125. The walls of the house were not much damaged because they were originally well built.

Records show that, on August 23, 1804, a portion of land on which the Hermitage stands was bought from Nathaniel Hays, this being the same land as deeded to Nathaniel Hays on April 17, 1786, by the state of North Carolina. At this time there were a few log houses on the site. Considerable remodelling was done. A group of houses consisting of a block house two stories high and three small one story houses were constructed. The large block house on the first floor had one large room, twenty-four by twenty-six feet, with a huge fireplace, and a lean-to at the back for a pantry and bedroom. The large room, used for kitchen, dining room and living room, had a large table in the middle seating from twelve to fourteen people. The table was always set. The block house served the Jackson family until 1819, when the brick house was completed.

Much furniture and equipment was brought back from Pensacola, Florida, when General Jackson was appointed Governor of the Floridas. In

TENN
12- NASHV

1-

The Hermitage --continued.

1824 the chapel was built, most of the work having been done while General Jackson was in Washington as senator from Tennessee.

The Hermitage is owned by the state of Tennessee and is under the control of the Ladies' Hermitage Association.

Source: Andrew Jackson's Hermitage (1933) by Mary French Caldwell, historian for the Ladies' Hermitage Society.

Approved, J. Frazer Smith

(Revised at HABS Headquarters,
May 1936 by H.C.F. Original
sheet in field notebook).

TENN.
19-NASH.V

THE HERMITAGE
(Home of Andrew Jackson)
Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee

ARCHITECTURE:

The book, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, by Mary French Caldwell, gives illustrations to show the development of the Hermitage. From Harper's Magazine¹ a drawing is reproduced of the "Brick Hermitage" of 1819 with a small building to one side. From Ayres' Map of Nashville² the Hermitage is shown after the remodelling of 1831, with its two-story or superimposed porches and symmetrical pedimented wings. From an original drawing³ of 1856 in the Hermitage Museum a view is shown of the house after its final remodelling which followed the fire of 1834. This view shows the house much as it appears today, with the colossal order along the front and the one-story flat-roofed wings on the sides. It also shows the cedar avenue before the cedars had grown up. The front hall has a circular-shaped stairway and historic Telemachus wall-paper.⁴ In the garden is the circular Greek temple-tomb of Andrew Jackson's wife.⁵

¹ January, 1855. See Caldwell, p. 22.

² Owned by Dr. W.A. Provine. See Caldwell, p. 37.

³ Caldwell, p. 37.

⁴ Caldwell, p. 91.

⁵ Caldwell, p. 98. Also see Gardens of Colony and State, vol. 2., and History of the Homes and Gardens of Tennessee.

Note: A fuller architectural description cannot be written until more photographs and the drawings are done.

by Henry Chaudlee Forman
May 19, 1936

DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Addendum to
The Hermitage (Andrew Jackson House)
U.S. Highway 70 N, 12 miles east of Nashville
Nashville vicinity
Davidson County
Tennessee

HABS No. TN-52

HABS
TENN.
12-NASHV,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240